

Info includes Takarabe and 4 other Mrs NARITA

*Group
Interview*

Project I.D. No. 136

NAME: Kajiwara, Hajime DATE OF BIRTH: 1902 PLACE OF BIRTH: Yamanashi
Age: 73 Sex: M Marital Status: M Education: Grammar school

PRE-WAR:

Date of arrival in U.S.: 1918 Age: 16 M.S. Y.Y. Port of entry: San Fran.
Occupation/s: 1. Farmer 2. Trucking 3. Rancher (owned 20 acr.)
Place of residence: 1. Sacramento 2. Salinas 3. Pismo Beach
Religious affiliation: Christian church 4. Cortez
Community organizations/activities: _____

EVACUATION:

Name of assembly center: Interned in Santa Fe, Roseburg new method
Name of relocation center: Amache, Colorado
Dispensation of property: Left it With Americans Names of bank/s: _____
Jobs held in camp: 1. _____ 2. _____
Jobs held outside of camp: _____
Left camp to go to: Cortez

POST-WAR:

Date returned to West Coast: August, 1945
Address/es: 1. Cortez 2. _____
3. _____
Religious affiliation: Christian church
Activities: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
If deceased, date, place and age at time of death: _____

Name of interviewer: Takarabe Date: 7/9/75 Place: Cortez, Ca.
Translator: mecel hall

T: First of all, please tell me your name.

K: My name is Hajime Kajiwara.

Q: Where were you born?

A: I was born in Yamanashi Prefecture.

Q: When were you born?

A: In 1902.

Q: Are you 73 years old now?

A: Yes, I am.

Q: What was your father's occupation?

A: He was here in America, and I came here as yobiyose. (One who was
summoned.)

Q: Was he in Cortez?

A: He was in Sacramento. From Sacramento we went to Salinas, and
then we came here together.

Q: What was your father doing when you came here?

A: He was farming.

Q: Was he a sharecropper?

A: No, he was leasing the land.

Q: What was he growing?

A: He was growing almonds.

Q: Where was he doing that?

A: There was a place called Fair Oaks near Sacramento. He was growing orange, almond, olive and lemon there.

Q: How old were you when you came here?

A: When I was 16 years old.

Q: Was it in 1918?

A: Yes, it was.

Q: With whom did you live in Japan?

A: I stayed at my uncle's.

Q: Were you alone?

A: I had a brother and a sister. I came here first. Then my older sister came, and my younger brother came here last. My brother died of illness after he came here.

Q: Were you lonesome when you were living at your uncle's?

A: Yes, but my brother and sister were with me, and my uncle and aunt were good to us, so we were happy.

Q: Didn't your uncle and aunt have any children?

A: They had a baby while I was there, and one baby was born after I came here. But my uncle did not have luck with children, and they died.

Q: Did you go to school in Japan?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: How much education did you have?

A: After graduating from grammar school I was going to a continuation school before I came to America.

Q: Did you know that you were coming to America?

A: Not quite. While I was attending the continuation school I decided to come to America.

Q: What kind of a country did you think America was?

A: I thought it was a nice place, so I wanted to come to America.

Q: Did you receive letters from your parents?

A: Yes, we did.

Q: What kind of thing did they write about in their letters?

A: Just daily happenings, so I could not know what kind of a country America was by their letters. As they were farmers they did not know much about the conditions in America.

Q: Were the things your parents were doing in America ^{not much} different from what they used to do in Japan?

A: Of course they were different from what Japanese farmers did.

Q: You didn't know much about such a thing, didn't you?

A: No, they didn't mention anything like that as we were children. They did not mention anything about the grown-ups' world. They just told us to study hard and grow up to be fine people. Parents do not have anything else to tell the children.

Q: Do you remember about your schooldays?

A: It was grammar school so I didn't study anything special.

Q: Did you like school?

A: I didn't like it or dislike it. I barely graduated.

Q: What was fun at school?

A: Athletic meet and school excursions were fun.

Q: Did you have any unpleasant memories?

A: It snowed a lot in winter, so, going to school in snow was hard, but it was not too unpleasant.

Q: Were you a serious boy or a naughty boy?

A: I thought I was serious, but I don't know what the people thought.

5

Q: Do you remember what kind of subjects you learned at school?

A: It was grammar school, so we studied general subjects such as math, Japanese language, history, ethics etc.

Q: Do you remember what kind of thing you learned in ethics?

A: I think we learned about moral from ethics.

T: They don't teach such subject at school now.

K: In America education and religion are separated, and religion is taught in churches.

Q: Do you think it is better to have something like ethics taught in schools?

A: I think it is good, maybe because I was brought up that way. I think they should teach it at schools, churchesⁿ and in the families.

Q: Do you remember anything that happened in your village or in the country while you were in Japan, such as war or earthquakes?

A: It was peaceful when I was little, and nothing special happened. I grew up in a quiet country village.

Q: Did many people come to America from Yamanashi Prefecture?

A: Quite a few from the foot of Mt. Fuji where I lived. Many people came from Kofu which is on the other side of the mountain range. When I came here, most people from Yamanashi Prefecture lived in big cities like San Francisco and Los Angeles.

6

Q: How did your father happen to come to America?

A: It was mostly from financial reasons. In those days his wife was ill, the silk growing was not doing well. He might have decided to come here because his friends were coming here. I think he came here leaving his wife and children home in order to try his fortune.

Q: Was your mother here when you came here?

A: My father came here alone at first, and then my mother joined him, My mother and 3 children lived in Japan for ten years.

Q: Was your father a hard worker?

A: Yes, he worked hard.

Q: Weren't ^{there many} ~~there~~ many Isseis who could not summon their wives and children from Japan?

A: I think there might have been such people. My father went back to Japan to pick up my mother. As the children were getting big he left us with our uncle and aunt.

Q: Where did you sail from?

A: From Yokohama.

Q: Did you come on board the ship alone?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Do you remember about the people you met on board the ship?

What did you talk about?

A: I don't remember well. We were on board the ship called Korea-Marun for two weeks. In those days there were picture marriages.

I saw many picture brides in the hotel in Yokohama.

Q: Did you have a chance to talk to them?

A: No, I didn't. I was only 16 years old.

Q: Did you know that they were picture brides?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Did you stop^{over} in Hawaii?

A: I landed there and stayed there overnight.

Q: What do you remember about Hawaii?

A: I thought it was a hot place. I stayed at a hotel named Kome-Ya.
It was very hot.

Q: Did you come to San Francisco from there?

A: I arrived in San Francisco, and then came to Sacramento with my father who came to meet me.

Q: You didn't see your father for about 6 years, didn't you?

A: I think we didn't see each other for 4 to 5 years.

Q: Did your father recognize you right away as you were grown?

A: Yes, he did.

Q: Were you happy when you saw your father?

A: I was very happy. I was happier when I saw my mother.

Q: Did you come to Sacramento straight from San Francisco?

A: We stayed in San Francisco overnight.

Q: How did you feel when you saw San Francisco for the first time?

A: I thought it was a beautiful place. I also thought it had many hills. When I saw from the ship I saw only hills.

Q: Were you disappointed when you came to Sacramento as there were all farms?

A: No, I didn't. I thought the American farms were better than those in Japan. Where I lived in Japan we had to go up the hills to the farm. There were hills in Fair Oaks, too, but they were not as steep, so I thought it was a nice place. Fair Oaks is now in the city, and I cannot imagine where we used to live.

Q: How long did you live in Fair Oaks?

A: About 3 years.

Q: Did you farming there?

A: Yes, we moved to West Sacramento, and stayed there for about two years.

Q: Did you help your father since you came to Fair Oaks?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: What did you do in West Sacramento?

A: We grew tomatoes for 2 to 3 years. Then we moved to Salinas, and from there we came here.

Q: What did you do in Salinas?

A: We grew strawberry there.

Q: How many years did you stay in Salinas?

A: I don't remember too well about those days, but I think we stayed there 2 to 3 years.

Q: Did you think the work here is very hard?

A: No, I didn't think so. I came to America in 1918, and came here in 1923. During that time we went from Fair Oaks to West Sacramento to Salinas and here.

Q: In what year did you come to America?

A: In 1918.

10

Q: How did you happen to come here?

A: In those days Japanese could not own land or lease land. My parents had two children since I came here. In order to raise children we had to get a place where we could live permanently. At that time we had a chance to buy land here, so we decided to do so, and we came here.

Q: Could you buy land here?

A: Yes, we could.

Q: Why ^{did} ~~could~~ you buy land here?

A: Mr. Abiko thought Japanese should have land for future development. He had already built Yamato Colony in Livingston, so he started a sister colony here.

Q: Was the land bought in Mr. Abiko's name?

A: We bought it in our children's name. Children were still too young, so the parents were their guardians until they were grown up.

Q: What did you grow on the land you bought?

A: We planted grape.

Q: About how many acres?

A: We bought 20 acres and planted grape on it.

Q: Did 20 acres give you enough income?

A: It was not enough, so I leased land and grow vegetables. Gradually grape business became dull. In the meantime, vegetables underwent changes, and I came to grow almonds which is most profitable.

Q: What did you do when you did not get enough income from the grape?

A: I had a trucking business, transporting vegetables from here to San Francisco.

Q: Did you learn English around that time?

A: My English was not good, but I managed to get along somehow. I went to school while I was in Sacramento.

Q: Didn't you have to know English when you drove the truck?

A: Of course. I managed to get along with a little English I knew. I still do not speak it well enough.

Q: About how many years did you drive the truck?

A: I think I drove for about ten years.

Q: Did you make a living by driving the truck?

A: Yes, I did. I bought the truck and transported vegetables from here to San Francisco.

Q: How did you get the money to buy a truck?

A: I managed to buy it ^{or} somehow. In those days trucks were not well developed yet. It was the first time Dodge Motor Company used air in truck tires so they could run faster. Before then, they used just rubber tires. I commuted to San Francisco every day.

Q: How long did it take you to go from here to San Francisco in those days?

A: It took about 4 hours.

Q: It took you 8 hours to go there and back, didn't it?

A: Yes, it did. I drove at night time. The farmers picked vegetables until dark. Then I took them to San Francisco during the night, and came home in the morning.

Q: Did you take them to one place or did you peddled them?

A: I delivered them to wherever the farmers wanted me to take. Of course different companies are gathered in the market place.

Q: About what time did you come back?

A: About 8 o'clock in the morning.

Q: Is the market open all night?

A: No, they are not, but I unloaded them at certain places.

Q: When did you sleep?

A: I slept from morning till about 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

Q: Your night and day were reversed, weren't they?

A: Yes, they were.

Q: Since your night was long, did you have any recreation?

A: I had some recreation when I had time.

Q: How many days a week did you work?

A: I did not have time for recreation during the week. I played only on Saturdays.

Q: Was Saturday your day off?

A: Yes, it was. I was young then, but I did that kind of work even after I was married and lived in Pismo Beach. I used to transport lettuce from Imperial Valley to San Francisco.

Q: When did you get married?

A: In 1930.

Q: Was it while you were in San Francisco?

A: No, I was in Oakland at that time, and then we went to Pismo Beach.

Q: When did you quit commuting to San Francisco?

A: I think it was around 1929.

Q: Did you go to Oakland after that?

A: I think we stayed in Oakland less than a year. Then we went to Pismo Beach.

Q: Did you find your wife by yourself?

A: She ~~was~~ in Japan. Many people helped me find her.

Q: Did your uncle or somebody else find her?

A: My uncle helped me find her.

Q: Was she from your village?

A: She lived a little ways from my house, but we could say that she was from the same village.

Q: Mrs. Kajiwara, did you know him?

A: Kajiwara's uncle and my aunt were married. They had children but they died, so they wanted me to marry ^{to} ~~into~~ the Kajiwara's family. At the time I came here Japanese ~~were~~ not allowed to come to America by the immigration law, but with everyone's help I managed to come here. When Kajiwara was on his way to America at the age 16 he stopped at my house. I was only 10 years old then. I remember hearing that he was going to America, but I did not know him. Kajiwara was 16, so I think he knew me.

I could not come to America then, so I was summoned here as a maid to Ambassador Sato in Washington D.C. I worked there for 3 years before I married Kajiwara.

Q: Do you think it was good that you came to America?

Mrs. K: At the time I came here I wondered why I came here.

Q: Was the life hard for you?

A: Yes, because I was brought up in the country, and then I came to work in the family of a high ranking diplomat in America. It was different in every way. Sometimes I cried as I missed my parents, but after a few months I got used to the life there.

Q: Did you come to Pismo Beach when you got married?

A: I came here first, and went to Pismo Beach after we got married.

Q: Were you happy when you came here?

A: I was happy and relieved. When Ambassador Sato became a consul in Los Angeles, I resigned from my service and married Kajiwara. When I came to Cortez Kajiwara's mother and father greeted me. I was brought up in the country, but I went to Washington and Los Angeles, so it was the first time I saw the country in America, I thought what a hilly countryside I came. I wonder how far we have to go before we could see a house. Since then children were born one after another, and then the war broke out and we were put in the camp.

Q: Mrs. Kajiwara, how old were you when you got married?

A: I was 19 years old when I came from Japan. I was 23 when I got married.

Q: Mr. Kajiwara, what was difficult when you delivered vegetables to San Francisco?

A: There wasn't anything hard. Everything went well.

Q: Did you ever spill vegetables or anything like that?

A: The truck had a couple of collisions.

Q: What did you do then?

A: I had insurance. At one time, when I stopped by the road with flat tire, a truck loaded with eggs hit the rear of my truck. I cannot forget the scene of broken eggs all over the place. At another time my truck fell about 12 feet down the cliff and was smashed.

Q: Didn't you get hurt?

A: No. There were two white drivers, but they were not hurt.

Q: Wasn't it your truck?

A: Yes, it was.

Q: Weren't you driving then?

A: No, I wasn't. The white drivers were. When I was in Pismo, too, I did not drive much. Four people as partners organized a company, and the white people drove the truck. Going from the Imperial Valley to San Francisco 3 white drivers took turn in driving; one drove from the Imperial Valley to Los Angeles, then the second one drove from Los Angeles to Pismo Beach, and the third one drove from Pismo Beach to San Francisco. They did the same coming back.

Q: What did you transport from the Imperial Valley?

A: Lettuce. Sometimes we drove from San Francisco to Pescadero, or picked up artichokes from Davenport and took them to Los Angeles. Four people worked in parties.

Q: Then you had a business?

A: It was a trucking business.

Q: About how many years did you continue that business?

A: I did it for about 10 years.

Q: Did that kind of business give you good income?

A: Not too good, but it brought in good income.

Q: What kind of problems did you have in that business?

A: As in any kind of business it has problems such as the insurance premium going up, the price of fuel going up and the drivers' wages going up.

Side 2

Q: Did you use the truck half the time?

A: Yes, it takes more than 40 hours for a truck to go to San Francisco and back.

Q: Then half the time it is running without any load, isn't it?

A: Of course it is. That is only in winter time when there is not much work. In spring we delivered peas from Pismo to San Francisco and Los Angeles, and in summer lettuce to both markets. They went to the markets and came back the next day. Some trucks came back with bad engines, bad brakes or flat tires, so only about 8 out of 12 trucks would be running well. Always some trucks were in repair.

Q: Did you have your own mechanics?

A: Yes, I did. But when a truck is broken in Los Angeles it had to be repaired there so that it could come back. We had a special garage there to fix our trucks.

Q: That ^{was} a big business, isn't it?

A: Yes, it was. I came back here in 1937, but my partners continued it after that. They had to close it when the war broke out.

Q: Were the partners all Japanese?

A: Yes, they were.

Q: How many partners were there?

A: There were four partners.

Q: How many drivers did you have?

A: More than ten of them.

Q: How was the business during the Depression?

A: President Roosevelt gave a week's holiday and closed the banks.

It was better then because we did not have to pay. Of course we did not get any money.

Q: Didn't your business become dull?

A: Of course it became dull, but people had to eat even during the Depression, and the farmers had to ^ship whatever they produced in order to get some money. It was not bad enough that we could not make the ends meet. Sometime the grape around Cortez sold for only 5 or 6 dollars a ton, and that didn't even pay for the pickers. But I don't think vegetables were that bad.

Q: Did the transporting fee go down?

A: A law came out then that prohibited the cutting of the fee and wages.

Q: Didn't it affect your business too much?

A: No, it didn't.

Q: Weren't there many people who did not have jobs and were in difficulties?

A: I think there were. Many white people were without jobs. We could not just give them money, so we had them repair the road and paid them so that they can make ^{their} living.

Q: Were you in Pismo then?

A: Yes, I was. Around here, too, people could not sell grape, so they did not pick them for about 3 years. But the grape had to be cut so that they could burn the brush in winter time.

Mr. Narita: In those days we burnt the brush on a steel wagon.

We could not burn the brush unless we cut the grapes, so we dropped the grape we could not sell on the ground, and pruned the tree for the following year's crop.

I went to work in Guadalupe in 1930, so I know that around there, Pismo and Santa Maria area they grow much vegetables and ship them to the East and to the market in Los Angeles. Japanese farmers were growing fine vegetables and were shipping them out, so Mr. Kajiwara and others had much work in delivering vegetables. They were better off than farmers around here in spite of the Depression.

Mr. Kajiwara: In those days the markets in Los Angeles had many Japanese retail stores like fruits stands. All the commission merchants were Japanese, farmers were Japanese and shippers were Japanese, so everything went well. It is not like that now.

Q: Business of Japanese was pretty good then, wasn't it?

A: Yes, it was pretty good. In San Francisco the market was owned by Italians and other Europeans, and Japanese were exploited by them. Therefore the market system in San Francisco was different from that in Los Angeles.

Q: You know the markets in both cities, didn't you?

A: Yes, I did. In San Francisco, those who farmed with enough capital did well, but those who had to borrow money were exploited.

Mr. Narita: In Los Angeles the farmers were Japanese, shippers were Japanese and the markets were operated by Japanese, so everything went well. But in San Francisco, the market was run by Italians, farmers were Japanese and shippers were the whites. The commission merchants were the whites, so we never knew what they did.

Q: What does a commission merchant do?

A: They sell produce for the farmers by charging commission. For example, a farmer brings 100 crates of strawberry and ask him to sell them for him in the store. The commission merchant will deduct the shipping cost and charge commission. That is a delicate point. Even if he sold a crate for \$2 and report that he sold it for \$1.75 we never know.

Q: Especially, as Japanese didn't understand English, they did not know what the commission merchants were doing, weren't they?

A: Even if we understood English, we thought commission merchants do business like that.

Q: Couldn't you do anything about it if you knew what they were doing?

A: Even if we knew about it there was no proof. We did not know how much they sold for.

Mr. Narita: As Mr. Kajiwara said, they took a certain amount of commission. They sent a bill to the farmer who shipped the produce showing how much the transportation fee was, how much the commission was, and how much that person would receive.

Q: How much was the commission then?

A: About 10%. When farmers shipped produce out to the market there were difference in price between the stores. The following day the farmers would ship more produce to the store that paid more money, and less to the stores that paid less money. When I was in Pismo, the buyers from the stores came out, and the store that had lower price the day before would put higher price so that the farmers would ship more. We did not know if they were sold higher the following day or not, but they said they were sold for more.

Mr. Narita: If there was 10¢ difference for a crate of strawberry people wouldn't notice, so when they wanted more produce they offered higher price. In those days buyers from the market used to come to the country to buy fruits and vegetables. I heard and saw some buyers bring something rare such as banana to the children of farmers so that they would get more shipment of produce.

Q: Do the buyers just come to ask you to send more produce?

A: Yes, they do.

Q: Then you don't have to ship more even if he gives you banana?

A: We don't have to, but we are human so we would like to give more to someone who is kind even if we are cheated.

Q: When did you come back here?

A: In 1937.

Q: Didn't you regret quitting the job?

A: Yes, but I got tired of moving around.

Q: You didn't drive, didn't you?

A: No, I didn't, but I had to go here and there.

Mrs. Narita: He was the youngest among the partners.

Q: You might not have been slighted, but you had to obey the other partners, didn't you?

A: I was doing the bookkeeping without much knowledge of English.

Mrs. Narita: If he was just a bookkeeper it would have been all right, but he was a boss and had the financial worried, so he had a headache.

Q: Did your father still own 20 acres when you came back?

A: Yes, he did. After I came back I bought some more land and cultivated it.

Q: How many children did you have then?

A: I had 3 children then.

Q: How many children did you have altogether?

A: Seven.

Q: When you came back and started farming did you think trucking business was better?

A: When I came home the Depression was over, and things were getting better with President Roosevelt's New Deal.

Q: Did you grow grapes?

A: I was growing grapes, but I started peach also.

Q: About how many acres?

A: About 30 acres altogether. I was doing both by myself.

Q: What kind of thing happened here after you came back?

A: The War broke out.

Q: How was the sentiments of the whites towards Japanese before the war?

A: As for myself I did not feel anything, but Americans must have felt some pressure as Japanese behaved recklessly in China.

Q: Do you think the Japanese here were oppressed because Japan behaved so recklessly?

A: I think so.

Q: Where were you when Pearl Harbor was attacked?

A: I was here.

Q: Were you working?

A: Yes, I was

Q: How did you feel then?

A: I couldn't believe it. I thought a terrible thing happened.

Q: Did you think your life was in danger?

A: I thought a terrible thing happened. I could not believe it for a while. I thought it might have been a mistake.

Mrs. K. : He was taken away.

Q: How long after Pearl Harbor Attack were you taken away?

A: I was taken away pretty late, in February.

Q: Were you a president of some organization?

A: I was a treasurer of the Heimusha Kai. (

Mrs.K. : We don't know why they took him away as he was not a leader, but we think because he was the treasurer. He was unlucky.

Q: Didn't they give the reason why they took you away?

A: No, they didn't give any reason. I think they considered me as a dangerous enemy alien.

Q: When did the confinement order come out?

A: I think it came out right away.

Q: Were you confined within 5 miles?

A: We could only go out within 5 miles maybe to grocery stores.

Mr. K: After he was taken away we could not go to Turlock.

Mr. K: I think it was around January that the confinement order came out.

Mrs. K: We could not go out at night.

Q: Did the F.B.I. came and take you away?

A: I think so.

Q: What kind of thing happened after the Pearl Harbor attack and before you were taken away?

A: Nothing special happened.

Q: Didn't the white people say anything?

A: No, they didn't.

Q: Did you know that people were being taken away?

A: Yes, people were taken away one after another, but I didn't think they would take me away.

Mr. Narita: They used to come in police patrol cars without any notice. Some people were taken away for 2 to 3 days and were sent home. Not many people were taken away from around here, but many people were taken away from Alameda to Santa Maria, even the factory workers.

Q: Where were you taken to first?

A: I was taken to San Francisco.

Q: What did they do there?

A: There were not many Japanese there, only about 20 to 30. By and by people came in everyday, and soon the place was filled. Then they sent us to Santa Fe by train.

Q: Was there a hearing in San Francisco?

A: They just asked us some questions. The real hearing was held after we went to Santa Fe.

Q: How long did you stay at Santa Fe?

A: About a year and about half a year at Roseburg.

Q: Then you didn't know what happened to your family?

A: No, I didn't.

Mrs. K: I was left behind. As people in Los Angeles were evacuated early, my sister and her husband who was weak came here thinking we would not evacuate till late. But we were evacuated earlier than we expected. About two days before we evacuated, my sister's husband died. I was at the bottom of fortune's wheel then. My husband's father and brother were in the hospital, my husband was taken away. Then the brother died before the evacuation. We had to hold a funeral, and I was pregnant. By the help of the villagers I managed to go into Merced Center.

Q: How many children did you have then?

A: I had five children, and was expecting the 6th one.

Q: Were the children small?

A: Yes, they were. The oldest daughter was around 11 or 12.

Q: What did you think you would do?

A: I didn't know what to do. We went to Merced, and from there we evacuated to Amache, but I couldn't go to Amache with them as I was too far pregnant to take a train. They told me to stay behind. I cannot express how hard it was for me. My mother, five children and my sister who lost her husband went to Amache. Fortunately there was a single man from the same prefecture who felt sorry for ~~them~~^{us} and helped ~~them~~^{us} with luggages. I didn't know that but later I heard that this man, Mr. Koike looked like a chindon-ya (an advertising public crier). He got on the train carrying our youngest child on his back, and all kinds of thing hanging in front of him from his neck. After I had the baby I went to Amache. I wondered why I had so much misfortune one after another. Then one day Mr. Yuge broght a church bulletin in Amache and encouraged me. I cannot forget him saying, "Utako-san, God will never make you carry load that you cannot carry, so cheer up." At that time I thought if God ^{would} not make me carry load that I could not carry, I should manage it somehow.

Q: What did you do with your house when you evacuated?

A: People left their ranches with the white people. We could take only luggages we could carry. We had no men, just women and children, so I don't know how we went there, but we managed somehow. Big luggages were taken to Merced by the truck which belonged to the union.

Q: What did you do with things you could not take to the camp?

A: I locked up valuable things in one room.

Q: Was it this house?

A: No, not this house. It was the old house, but when we came back we found everything scattered all over the room. They opened and took things they wanted.

Mr. Narita: We did not belong to the church in those days, but church members put their stuff in the social room of the church and asked the pastor to take care of them. This pastor was like a thief. When we were in Amache people were saying that their belongings were stolen. The white pastor took them out and did what he wanted with them. People in Turlock heard about it, and told the people in Amache. The pastor was removed. We had our belongings in Mr. Kuwahara's warehouse but just like you, our stuff were taken out. Something like refregeator was still all right. We could use the stove after we came home.

Q: What happened to the ^{two} sick people?

A: We left them in a hospital in Merced.

Mrs. K: My father-in-law died in the hospital. My husband tried hard to come home, but they did not let him come home. Fortunately his brother was in the hospital, and I was there to have the baby, so lonely as he was he had us beside him when he passed away. We took out the suits we had put away, and wore them for the funeral.

Mr. Narita: I don't know how they made the arrangement, but I remember driving Mr. Baba's car for the funeral. It was a nice red car, De Soto or something.

Q: Did your father get well?

A: No, he died, but my brother-in-law got well and went to Amache.

Q: Who came from Los Angeles?

A: That was my sister.

Q: Did she die?

A: No, her husband died before evacuation, and then my father-in-law died in Merced.

Q: Were there 3 sick people?

A: Yes, there were. I was not ill, but I was left behind to have a baby.

Q: Where was the baby born?

A: In Merced. After I got strong, they took me to camp.

Q: Which camp did you go to?

A: Amache, Colorado.

Q: How did you feel when you went to Amache?

A: I thought Cortez was is the hill, but Amache was worse, and strong wind blew there once in a while. I did not have it here, but since I went to Amache I got the hayfever, and had a hard time. Some Catholic priests from Los Angeles tried hard for the release of my husband. They said that the best way was to have children write letters. Our oldest daughter was 11 years old then, so I had her write letters.

Q: Was he released because of that?

Mr. K: A ^{Maryknoll} father came to see me and told me that he investigated my papers and found nothing wrong, so he thought I could be released.

Side 3

Q: What is Maryknoll?

A: It is a Catholic school. My sister attended this school for a while, so my oldest daughter wrote to a father there. Then a father visited us in Amache, and after asking about the condition of our family visited my husband in Roseburg, New Mexico.

Mr. Kajiwara: My friend and my sister's family were members of Maryknoll, so I think that is why they helped me. I think his name was Father Lovely.

Q: Mrs. Kajiwara, could you recuperate well after you had the baby in the camp?

A: They took good care of me. I was worried, but they took better care of me than I expected. They were very careful about the food I ate as a woman in childbed. I was very thankful for that.

Q: Did you wait for a year in Amache until your husband was released?

A: It was about a year and a half.

Q: Wasn't it hard to get along without your husband?

A: People did not have much to do in the camp. so they were good to us.

Mr. Narita: Mr. Kajiwara's mother was with them and was well, so she took care of the children.

Q: Was your sister-in-law with you?

A: Yes, she was.

Q: What kind of worries did you have in the camp?

A: We didn't have much worries, but as we had many children and a baby, I was worried when we did not have enough sugar or milk. But they gave us special rations for the children, so it was not as bad as it was rumored.

Q: What kind of rumors were there?

A: There was not enough milk or not enough room in the hospital. I don't think it was true, but the rumors were started as people had nothing to talk about, and they were spread around. Then the ones who were sickly or those who had little children were worried.

The hardest thing for me in Amache was that I had to take our 5 year-old son to the women's bathroom as we did not have any men in our family. Then the children around his age teased him calling him a sissy for going to the women's bathroom. He cried everyday, and couldn't even go to the toilet. Then I asked Mr. Koike who helped us carry luggages to Amache to take him to men's bathroom with him. He asked me why, but when I told him that my son cried and would not go to bathroom as other boys tease him, he agreed to take him to bathroom with him.

Mr. Narita: It was lucky that Mr. Koike lived nearby in Merced.

Mrs. K: Around that time my father-in-law came back to camp from the hospital as he was getting better. As Mr. Koike was from Yamaguchi Prefecture also, he used to visit my father-in-law and sat on the porch with him. When they were talking about going to Amache, my father-in-law must have asked Mr. Koike to take care of us as we did not have men in our family. Whenever I said, "I am sorry for giving you so much trouble", he used to say, "Your father asked me to take care of you, and he passed away, so I have to take care of you." As my father-in-law asked him, he sympathized with us and took good care of us.

Mrs.K: That was the worst time in my life. My father-in-law and my brother-in-law were hospitalized. My husband was taken away, and my sister's husband died. I think bad thing comes one after another in one's life.

Q: Mr. Kajiwara, how did you spend your days at Santa Fe?

A: We did not have anything special to do, so we played baseball.

Q: Could you correspond with your family?

A: I think we were allowed to write once a month.

Mrs. K: They opened the mail although we did not write anything dangerous.

Mr. K: We didn't have anything much to write about except to tell each other how we were.

Q: Is that why you played baseball every day?

A: We did not play baseball every day. There were many religious leaders, Tenrikyo, Buddhists and Christians and preached their religion. I think it was good for me in some respect to be able to listen to all kinds of sermons among prominent people.

Q: Were you there for a year and a half?

A: Yes, I was.

Q: Did you belong to the Heimusha Kai here?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: About how many members were there?

A: There was no definite number of members. Only young men belonged to it.

Mr. N: Heimusha Kai was made of people who had military obligation; men from 21 years old to about 43 years old. People around Mr. Kajiwara and my age and some Kibeis belonged to it.

Mr. K: It was like exemption from the military draft.

Q: Did you collect contributions and send them to Japan?

A: Yes, we did.

Q: About how much did you collect?

A: I don't remember.

Q: Was it a large amount?

A: No, it was not.

Mr. N: We collected the membership fee, and as we did not spend it we sent it to the headquarter in San Francisco. Sometimes we collected aluminum foil and sent it, too.

Mr. K: We donated a wash basin in front of Yasukuni Shrine, or sent money to the surviving families of the war dead.

Mr. N: We do not know what the headquarter did with the money. They told us that they wanted us to donate a certain amount of money to buy a wash basin in front⁺ of Yasukuni Shrine.

Mr. K: We collected donations for that. I only went to the meetings in San Francisco a couple of times.

Q: What else did you do in Santa Fe and in Roseberg?

Did you get up in the morning, have 3 meals and went to bed?

A: Yes, but we had some pastime such as playing shogi (Japanese chess) or learning utai (chanting of a noh text). While I was in Roseburg some Japanese sailors came. They were rescued by Americans when they were unconscious on boats without food nor water after Hiryu was sunk. A man who went to Hawaii on a one-man submarine was captured and came to Roseburg, also. He wrote a book titled, "Prisoner of War Number One." The submarine was supposed to have exploded when it hit something, but I think it did not explode because of some malfunction. He was captured when he was unconscious.

Q: Was there any other incident in the camp?

A: We heard news in the camp every day that Japan was winning a sweeping victory.

Mrs. K: Where did such news come from?

Mr. K: I don't know where they came from. There were newsmen who could write. A man who published a paper called the "Town Crier" after he came back, told me the news every day. We enjoyed listening to the news. Some people recited utai, some played go or shogi. There were all kinds of recreation.

Mrs. K: Where did those go and shogi come from?

Mr. K: They came from somewhere.

Mrs. K: They treated the enemy aliens well, didn't they. Beside being separated from the families you were not treated bad,

Mr. K: I don't think it would have hurt to have families with us.

Mrs. K: There was a rumor that they might let them unite with their families.

Mr. K: There was no sense letting innocent people stay in a place like that, but they called us dangerous enemy aliens.

Mr. N: Some families went to Crystal City from the camp to unite with the husbands.

Mrs. K: There was such a rumor in Amache, too, It was nice to be united with my husband, but at that time I did not want to go there taking all the children with me.

Mr. N: At that time the biggest complaints were that the families were separated as the Kajiwaras, and that the people were put in camps as enemy aliens like animals in cages and received spiritual contempt. As for the treatment, it was not bad. Japanese in America were better off than Japanese who were repatriated from Manchuria, Korea or China.

As most Japanese were Isseis, they were not used to the Western food that ^{was} served in the camp so there were complaints. There was plenty of food. Milk might have been short one day, but there was enough the next day. They gave milk and cookies in between meals to children. People complained about being put in such a place, but looking back I think it was good that we learned all kinds of things such as flower making, utai, shigin (recitation of Chinese poems), calligraphy, painting and

sculpture. I think the reason shigin is so popular now is because people learned it in camps. Before the war shigin was not so popular as today. The other reason is that Isseis are getting old and have reached the retiring age. I think most women learned how to make flowers or how to knit in the camp.

Mrs. K: They did not have anything else to do in the camp.

Mr. N: Mrs. Kajiwara and my wife who had little children spent the days taking care of them ... washing clothes, taking them to school and picking them up, so they did not have time to go to school. But those whose children were bigger learned those things in the camp.

Q: When did you come back to Amache?

A: In 1943.

Q: Were you happy when you came back?

A: Of course I was happy to join the family.

Q: How about you, (Mrs. Kajiwara)?

A: I was relieved. I was worried as there was a rumor that they might kill the enemy aliens. At one time I was very worried. One person who went home from Merced came back to the camp and said, "I heard that Mr. Kajiwara was killed." I received a letter from my husband a week before then, but he could have been killed as he was an enemy alien. I cannot describe how surprised I was. I had my children write a letter to him.

We could write to him often, but he could write to us only once a month. I was worried until I received his answer. This man said, "When I went home a Filipino told me that Mr. Kajiwara was killed." He could say that casually as it didn't concern him, but I was surprised. In the meantime we received a letter from him telling us that he was well. We cannot believe in hearsay.

Mr. N: In any camp there were all kinds of rumors. In Amache people printed extras reporting that Japanese Navy won victory at Midway. Some people distributed the extras to every block, and those who recieved the extras gathered and talked about it. The same thing happened in other camps. In Minidoka, too, they printed news ~~that~~ Japan occupied such and such places, but they were lies. Japanese radio station broadcasted lies, and the Imperial headquarter reported lies until the end to encourage Japanese soldiers. By the end of the war, some people who believed Japan won the war argued with those who said Japan lost the war.

Q: Which was better, the internment camp or Amache?

A: The days felt shorter in Amache because of the family atmosphere. After I came to Amache I had to do some work, so I became a tofu maker.

Q: Did you make tofu?

A: Yes, I made tofu in the camp.

Mrs. K: He worked for \$18.

Q: Did you do that every day?

A: Yes, I made tofu every day.

Q: From around what time did you work?

A: I worked half a day from early in the morning.

Q: Did you continue that for a long time?

A: Till the end.

Q: About how many months did you stay in the camp?

A: I stayed in Amache for about a year.

Q: What kind of hobby did you have while you were there?

A: I played go (Japanese checker) every day.

Q: Did you do anything else?

A: Nothing special.

Q: Did you go fishing?

A: We could not go out. If we had a permit we could go as far as the town of Amache. People who worked in ranches could go places by trucks.

Mr. N: At first we were told that they would not let us go out if we did not behave ourselves, but by the end they told us that that they would kick us out if we complained. Things reversed.

Mr. N: In those days our children were small, but many people went to Chicago area to work. Some people went to the East early, and are still doing business around Seabrook.

Q: Do you have any recollections of the camp; happy or hard times?

A: I don't have any special recollection to talk about.

Q: What about you?(Mrs. Kajiwara)

A: It is like a dream. When the bell rang, a crowd of people went to the mess hall. It was pleasant in a way. We didn't have to cook, but just went to the mess hall and ate and came back. In a way it was pleasant, and on the other hand it was distressing. It is like a dream.

Q: When did you leave the camp?

A: In 1945.

Q: Was it after the war ended?

A: Yes, it was.

Q: Did you come straight back here?

A: We were sent back here.

Q: What about your house?

Mrs. K: Some houses were empty, but some houses had people still living in them.

Mr. K: Mr. Mambock of Merced took care of all the Japanese ranches around here, and leased them to the white sharecroppers. That is why until the crops were harvested we had to pitch tents at the Buddhist church or the Christian church and live in them for about 4 to 5 months.

Mrs.K: We left the camp in August.

Mr. N: No, we came here in early part of September as the schools were going to start.

Mrs. K: That is why we came here by the end of August. We wanted to get in the house before the year was over, and we finally moved in before before the end of the year.

Mr.N: We went to Merced on May 13th, went to Amache on September 13th and came back here on September 13th. We put up a tent in the orchard where JACL is standing now. It was summer so it was hard to pound the stakes into the ground.

Q: What did you do? (Kajiwara)

A: We put up a tent, too.

Q: Where was the tent at?

Mr.K: WRA loaned us tents and utensils.

Mrs. K: We went to Merced to borrow tents.

Mr. K: We went to borrow the tools we used in relocation centers.

Q: Did you live in tents in Merced?

A: No, we did not live in tents in Merced, but we borrowed the tents until we could build our own houses.

Q: Did you live in tents?

A: Yes, we did.

Q: How big were the tents?

Mr.N: They were quite big, bigger than this room. We could put 4 or 5 ^r Amy cots in them. We had many children so we used two tents.

Q: Did you (Mr. N.) have 9 children, and you (Mr.K) had 6 children?

Mr.K: We had 7 children.

Q: How long did you live in the tents?

A: From August till the end of the year.

Q: Wasn't it cold in the tent?

A: It was not too cold, but it became cold by the end so we bought stoves. Many people went back to their homes by that time.

Q: What did you do about cooking?

A: Women cooked.

Q: Did you cook together?

A: Yes. Like the time we were in the relocation camp, we took turns in cooking. We all chipped in, and Mr. Taniguchi and I (Mr.K.) went to town to buy food.

Mr. N: Mr. Kajiwara went shopping on a growers' truck which was returned to us. We went out to work, so women got up early and took turns in cooking. We came home for lunch. We were still young and full of energy then, so we worked hard.

Mr.K: When we came back here we slept in the old school. . . The police came and saw it, and thought it was not good, so they loaned us tents.

Mrs. N: The first night at school we all slept together in the floor in rows. The school was packed with people. After they loaned us the tents we were divided into families.

Mr.N: We put up tents and made toilets.

Side 4 Q: Could you come back to your own house by the end of the year?

A: Yes, we could.

Q: In what shape was your house?

Mr.K: People were still living there, so we moved in after Mr. Mombock told us we could. People had moved out and the house was cleaned.

Mrs. K: You must have forgotten. The house was far from being clean.

Mr. K: Things that we left there were not there.

Mrs. K: Men do not notice, but when I went in the house I noticed that the wallpaper was torn. The kitchen was so dirty that I ^{did} wondered how I could work in it. Men ^{did} not notice it, but women had to cook there.

Mr.K: We had our works divided: men work in the field and women work in the house.

Mr.N: What Mr. Kajiwara calls "clean" means that they took everything and did not leave anything behind.

Mr. K: It was not clean, but they took everything that belonged to us.

Q: How was the ranch?

A: It was pretty well taken care of.

Q: Did things go well since you came back here?

A: Yes, it went smoothly, but we had to watch the market conditions, and do the ranch all over again, so our troubles started. Gradually we built up our ranches.

Mrs. K: I heard that things were going good while we were in the camp.

Mr. N: When we came back from the camp we had to start all over again. Some ranches where sharecroppers worked were pretty well taken care of, but other ranches were full of weeds. Our ranch was so full of weeds that we couldn't even walk, so we sprayed oil and burned them.

Mr. K: As Mr. Narita said, those who had good sharecroppers were lucky. After I came back from Amache I picked grapes for a while which I have never done before. At one time there were so much pokeyvine that we could not walk, and _____ stick to me. so I picked grapes standing in a 50 pound box. We had a hard time for a while after we came home. Today's living condition is like a dream.

Mr. K: Our place, too, the white people were farming on this side, and the Filipinos were farming on the other side. The white people took the tractors and put them in one place and lent them out. We could not borrow the tractors so we used horses. We could not farm well, so we could not make much money. Some shrewd white farmers used as many tractors as they wanted and made money, but some white farmers did not know how to use tools so they could not make much money.

Mr. N: The price of grape was good, so those who had much grapes were better off. Our place, too, half was empty ranch, but the other half was grape, so it was good.